

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for correcting at least one defect in a grain layer of a full-grain leather, comprising

applying an aqueous, optionally lightly foamed, plastics dispersion comprising small compact particles into the at least one defect,

drying the leather, thereby forming a solidified plastics dispersion, and

subjecting the leather to a pressure and heat treatment wherein the pressure and heat treatment is effected using a pressure roll which is heated to a temperature from 120°C to 180°C and makes contact with the grain layer,

with the result that hollow microspheres are at least partially formed from the small compact particles in the solidified plastics dispersion, and the at least one defect is thereby corrected.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the full-grain leather is cattle leather.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the applying comprises pressing the aqueous plastics dispersion into the at least one defect with an application roll having, optionally, a finely structured surface.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 3, wherein the application roll is a counterrotating application roll.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the pressure roll has a finely structured surface.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the compact particles have a size of less than 10 μm are used in an amount of from 15 g to 60 g, based on 1 kg of a 40% strength aqueous plastics dispersion.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein compact particles comprise a thermoplastic, which comprises a liquid blowing agent.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the compact particles expand at a temperature below 120°C.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1, wherein the applying, drying, and subjecting are further carried out on at least one region adjacent to the at least one defect, thereby forming a solidified plastics dispersion comprising hollow microspheres on the at least one region, and wherein, after formation of the solidified plastics dispersion comprising hollow microspheres on the at least one region, a mixture of water and a solvent other than water is applied to the at least one region and a pressure and heat treatment is then effected.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 11, wherein the applying comprises spraying the mixture of water and a solvent other than water onto the solidified plastics dispersion comprising hollow microspheres on the at least one region.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 11, wherein the solvent other than water is ethyl acetate.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 11, wherein the mixture comprises 90 parts of water and 10 parts of solvent other than water.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the small compact particles comprise pigmented compact particles whose color corresponds to that of the grain layer, the plastics dispersion, or a combination thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A full-grain leather, which comprises, on its grain layer, at least one defect which has been corrected by applying a plastics filling compound to the at least one defect, wherein

the plastics filling compound comprises a solidified, aqueous plastics dispersion which comprises hollow microspheres formed from compact particles by supplying heat and is pressed into the at least one defect on application, and

the hollow microspheres of the plastics filling compound are not present on the grain layer where the at least one defect is not present.

Claim 17 (Original): The full-grain leather according to claim 16, which is cattle leather.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The full-grain leather of claim 16, wherein the amount of formation of the hollow microspheres in the region adjacent to the to the at least one defect on the surface of the grain layer is greater than the amount of the formation of the hollow microspheres on the surface of the grain layer further away from the at least one defect.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the aqueous plastics dispersion is lightly foamed.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 3, wherein the application roll has a finely structured surface.